

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA/USOAS:SWILSON:DD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, PAHO, SWEL, AORG

SUBJECT: PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION EMPLOYEE RELATIONS PROBLEMS

1. DEPTOFF WAS INFORMED SEPTEMBER 24 THAT PAHO STAFF COMMITTEE HAD RECENTLY INFORMED DG MAHLER OF WHO THAT PAHO EMPLOYEE APPEALS SYSTEM (BOARD OF INQUIRY AND APPEAL) HAD BROKEN DOWN WITH A NUMBER OF GRIEVANCE CASES PENDING. STAFF COMMITTEE WAS ALLEGING VARIETY OF IRREGULARITIES IN BOARD'S OPERATION IN THE PAST. THIS INFORMATION DERIVED FROM CONVERSATIONS AND MAY BE INEXACT AS WE DO NOT HAVE TEXT OF COMMUNICATION. MAHLER REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD ORDER INVESTIGATION, INASMUCH AS PAHO BOARD ALSO SERVES AS REGIONAL COMMITTEE BOARD IN WHO'S APPEAL SYSTEM.

2. MISSION IS REQUESTED TO MAKE DISCREET INQUIRY IN WHO TO ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER, WHEN AND HOW DG MAHLER MAY UNDERTAKE THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS SITUATION IN PAHO. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER ANY STEPS WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE 19TH PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE, OPENING SEPTEMBER 30, WHICH SERVES AS WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE AMERICAS AND WHICH WE UNDERSTAND MAHLER WILL ATTEND.

KISSINGER

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